like improvement in seals, sealing under the direct supervision of an officer at the supply locations, introduction of pilfer proof locking device etc.

Complaints received against LPG distributors

648. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether public sector Oil Companies received complaints against their LPG distributors for indulging in various malpractices;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years, year-wise and Oil Company-wise;

(c) what was the general nature of complaint against these distributors; and

(d) what action was taken against each such distributor of each oil company during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies have reported the details of established complaints received against their LPG distributors during last three years as under:—

(Number of established complaints during the Year)

	1999-2000	1998-99	1997-98
IOC	143	222	373
HPC	77	64	79
BPC	16	38	53
IBP	nil	nil	nil

(c) and (d) The general nature of complaints have been overcharging, giving out of turn unauthorised LPG connections, shortage of corporation's equipments, supply of underweight cylinders, pilfering product from cylinders, forced sale of hot plates, delay in refill supply etc. Regular/surprise inspections of LPG distributors are carried out by the field officers/vigilance officers of the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies and action against the distributorships on established complaints, is taken in

terms of Distributorship Agreement/Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG).

Inquiry against G.M. (North) BPC

649. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether BPC is having its principal and registered office at Mumbai and not in the capital;

(b) whether Memorandum and Article of Association has given all powers and rights to the Chairman and functional directors who further delegate them to the ED, GM and territory Manager;

(c) whether corporation/Government have conducted enquiry against GM (North) for the allegations made by HPDA, if so, the name of the enquiry officer and date of commencement of said enquiry;

(d) if not, the reasons thereof; and

(e) whether the said officer would be given promotion only after the clearance of all allegations against him?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) HPDA had made certain allegations against GM (Retail) North of BPCL. No formal investigations were carried out because it was felt by the competent authority that the allegations were *prima facie* baseless.

(e) Since the allegation were found to be baseless they would not have any bearing on the promotion of officer.

Charges on Payments made by Dealers of Petrol and Diesel

650. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to direct oil corporations to pay Rs.16/- PKL and Rs.40/- PKL on HSD and petrol respectively to compensate such dealers making payment through draft and to